

# The National Fire Plan

## Bucktail Fire ~ Colorado



The Bucktail Fire in Colorado is a good example of how thinning, followed by prescribed fire can reduce the severity of subsequent wildfires. The fire burned through a forested area consisting mostly of ponderosa pine, in untreated forested areas of oak and unnaturally dense ponderosa pine. The following pictures show how the dense fuels allowed the fire to burn at a high intensity, destroying everything in its path.



The fire also burned through an area that had been thinned and then treated with prescribed fire. As shown in the pictures below, when the fire moved through the treated area, it burned at a lower intensity. Reducing the buildup of hazardous fuels has made this ponderosa pine forest healthier and increased its ability to survive wildfire and insect attacks.

